

To: Dhieux, Joyel[Dhieux.Joyel@epa.gov]
From: Stevenson, Peter
Sent: Mon 8/10/2015 9:53:50 PM
Subject: Fwd: UMU Indian Tribe

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Johnson, Tom" <tojohns@southernute-nsn.gov>
Date: August 10, 2015 at 3:25:32 PM MDT
To: "Stevenson, Peter" <Stevenson.Peter@epa.gov>
Subject: UMU Indian Tribe

Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe pulls water out of the San Juan. They are sampling and probably need the SAP/QAPP.

From: Colin Larrick [mailto:clarrick@utemountain.org]
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 2:47 PM
To: Celene Hawkins <chawkins@utemountain.org>; Bernadette Cuthair <bcuthair@utemountain.org>; Scott Clow <sclow@utemountain.org>; Manuel Heart <mheart@utemountain.org>; Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk <rwhiteskunk@utemountain.org>; Priscilla Blackhawk <pblackhawk@utemountain.org>; Deanne Wall <DWall@utemountain.org>; Malcolm Lehi <mlehi@utemountain.org>; Gary Hayes <ghayes@utemountain.org>; Juanita PlentyHoles <JPlentyholes@utemountain.org>
Cc: Peter Ortego <portego@utemountain.org>; Leland Begay <lelandbegay@utemountain.org>; Nicki Green <ngreen@utemountain.org>; Johnson, Tom <tojohns@southernute-nsn.gov>; **Personal Email/Ex. 6** <paul@utemountainfarmandranch.com>; thall@wcacontracting.com; Tomoe Natori <tnatori@utemountain.org>; Quinton Jacket <qjacket@utemountain.org>; Patty Wright <PWRIGHT@utemountain.org>; Kermit Palmer <kpalmer@utemountain.org>; George Wells <gwellsjr@utemountain.org>; Jerald Peabody <jpeabody@utemountain.org>; Gordon Hammond <GHammond@utemountain.org>; Lyman.Clayton@bia.gov; Jeremiah Cuthair <jcuthair@utemountain.org>; Denny, Waylon <waylon.denny@bia.gov>
Subject: RE: Animas River Spill

I wanted to let you all know that we've collected samples from the San Juan River and expect laboratory results this week. Once we receive our analytical results and start receiving laboratory data from other agencies we can begin to assess potential impacts to

wildlife.

Colin

Colin Larrick

Water Quality Specialist

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Environmental Programs Department

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(970) 564-5437

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clarrick@utemountain.org

From: Celene Hawkins

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 12:32 PM

To: Bernadette Cuthair; Scott Clow; Manuel Heart; Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk; Priscilla Blackhawk; Deanne Wall; Malcolm Lehi; Gary Hayes; Juanita PlentyHoles

Cc: Colin Larrick; Peter Ortego; Leland Begay; Nicki Green; Tom Johnson; Paul Evans (paul@utemountainfarmandranch.com); thall@wcacontracting.com; Tomoe Natori; Quinton Jacket; Patty Wright; Kermit Palmer; George Wells; Jerald Peabody; Gordon Hammond; Lyman.Clayton@bia.gov; Jeremiah Cuthair; Denny, Waylon

Subject: RE: Animas River Spill

Good point. Is Brunot/Wildlife addressing this?

From: Bernadette Cuthair

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 12:24 PM

To: Celene Hawkins; Scott Clow; Manuel Heart; Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk; Priscilla Blackhawk; Deanne Wall; Malcolm Lehi; Gary Hayes; Juanita PlentyHoles
Cc: Colin Larrick; Peter Ortego; Leland Begay; Nicki Green; Tom Johnson; Paul Evans (paul@utemountainfarmandranch.com); thall@wcacontracting.com; Tomoe Natori; Quinton Jacket; Patty Wright; Kermit Palmer; George Wells; Jerald Peabody; Gordon Hammond; Lyman.Clayton@bia.gov; Jeremiah Cuthair; Denny, Waylon; Bernadette Cuthair
Subject: RE: Animas River Spill

One other thoughts is the long-term impacts of animals (deer, birds, etc.) drinking water from the San Juan River especially the tribe has the hunting season fast approaching the tribal membership. Thank you.

Bernadette Cuthair

Assistant/Interim Director

Planning & Development

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

bcuthair@utemountain.org

From: Celene Hawkins
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 11:37 AM
To: Scott Clow; Manuel Heart; Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk; Priscilla Blackhawk; Deanne Wall; Malcolm Lehi; Gary Hayes; Juanita PlentyHoles
Cc: Colin Larrick; Peter Ortego; Leland Begay; Nicki Green; Tom Johnson; Paul Evans (paul@utemountainfarmandranch.com); thall@wcacontracting.com; Tomoe Natori; Quinton Jacket; Patty Wright; Kermit Palmer; George Wells; Jerald Peabody; Bernadette Cuthair; Gordon Hammond; Lyman.Clayton@bia.gov; Jeremiah Cuthair; Denny, Waylon
Subject: RE: Animas River Spill

Thanks Scott. My only addition here is that the BOR did do some releases from Navajo Reservoir to try to dilute the pollution plume as it hit the San Juan River and the critical habitat (and that water came in before the plume hit the UMU Reservation). I still think we should be cautious with any use or contact with the San Juan River (including cows) until we know more.

From: Scott Clow

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 10:48 AM

To: Celene Hawkins; Manuel Heart; Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk; Priscilla Blackhawk; Deanne Wall; Malcolm Lehi; Gary Hayes; Juanita PlentyHoles

Cc: Colin Larrick; Peter Ortego; Leland Begay; Nicki Green; Tom Johnson; Paul Evans (paul@utemountainfarmandranch.com); thall@wcacontracting.com; Tomoe Natori; Quinton Jacket; Patty Wright; Kermit Palmer; George Wells; Jerald Peabody; Bernadette Cuthair; Gordon Hammond; Lyman.Clayton@bia.gov; Jeremiah Cuthair; Denny, Waylon

Subject: RE: Animas River Spill

Dear Council, Staff and Enterprises,

I have had a few updates from the Southern ute Environmental Director, Tom Johnson, on the situation in the Animas and San Juan. In the impacted area in Colorado and New Mexico, water is not being pumped for drinking purposes until more river testing is completed and water managers are confident that it can be treated effectively to be safe. Along the Animas, EPA contractors are testing water wells for people to determine if any impacts affect those resources.

Our Water Quality Specialist is sampling the San Juan River at Four Corners today to determine the level of pollution there where it crosses the Reservation. WCA has pulled their pump from the river at the Four Corners Gravel mine and has enough water stored for a week or more.

That reach of river is important habitat for the endangered fish of the San Juan that the SJRIP has been working diligently to protect for many years, so hopefully there will not be any profound impacts from the spill that far downstream, but we will see. Primary concerns to aquatic life from a spill like this are acute metal toxicity (enough to immediately kill fish and other life) and then chronic affects in the long run from ingestion of metals. Acidic mine waste caused the Animas to become acidified, but it had bumped back to a more balanced pH by Friday-Saturday. Hopefully dilution and buffering kept the pH in the San Juan a little higher and protected the aquatic life- we will know more once we get our sample results from today's work. The initial fish toxicity test in the Animas did not show immediate die-off so that is a good sign for us downstream. Long-term effects may occur- our sample results will identify if the chronic standards for heavy metals are exceeded.

Recreational exposure could occur, so it would be wise to not issue any fishing or boating permits at the Four Corners until we know more, just in case someone requests one.

There is a lot of liability that The US EPA and their contractors have for this, and so we are determining any damages to the ecosystem and water quality.

Also, I just spoke with Waylon Denny of Regional BIA, and he is coming up to Durango to assist in his role as their environmental expert.

That is our current situation from the Animas River tragedy. I will share more as we learn it.

Scott

From: Celene Hawkins

Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 9:14 PM

To: Manuel Heart; Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk; Priscilla Blackhawk; Deanne Wall; Malcolm Lehi; Gary Hayes; Juanita PlentyHoles

Cc: Scott Clow; Colin Larrick; Peter Ortego; Leland Begay; Nicki Green

Subject: Animas River Spill

<http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20150806/NEWS01/150809765/River-users-warned-of-mine-waste->

Dear Tribal Council,

I wanted to make sure that the Council knew about the mine waste spill that occurred near Silverton on the Animas River yesterday. The Durango Herald link on the incident is above. No pumping is occurring from the Animas River to ALP right now, and the GM of the ALP OM&R Association told us that, because Lake Nighthorse is an off-channel reservoir, the water in the lake will not be impacted. There are going to be some impacts on the river all the way from Silverton to the New Mexico state line (and on the SUIT reservation).

My most immediate concern with this spill for the UMUT is whether it will harm the

sensitive and endangered fish in the San Juan River. I assume we will get updates from the recovery programs as public health and environmental agencies assess the aftermath of the spill, and we will keep you updated.

Best,

Celene